

Friis, John

From: RACCIO, ELIZABETH S (ATTSNET) [er2962@att.com]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 8:43 AM
To: Friis, John
Subject: HB6666, Section 5

March 16, 2009
Elizabeth S. Raccio
144 Skyline Drive
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I am a ACES ECA parent who opposes the Commissioner of Educations proposal that all part time instructors in Connecticut become certified.

My daughter is a theatre department student as ECA.

This past weekend the theatre students performed a Murder Mystery Dinner theatre. The cast wrote a murder mystery at a Italian wedding. Walking into the Theatre Hall was a experience itself; It had been transformed into a wedding reception. It was amazing. The audience was in awe . The performance was extremely entertaining. I received compliments from friends and family on how wonderful the acting was and how truly wonderful it is to be part of this experience at ECA. They actually felt as they were at a Italian wedding. . The students wrote this play in two weeks!

This year they are studying and performing Shakespeare. Through ECA my daughter has learned and understood the writings of this complicated author. Her English teacher is very impressed. It it truly a learning experience through the passion of artists passed on to their students.

The teachers/artists already incurred significant time and expense attaining their advanced degrees at the masters and Ph.D. levels, and are concurrently teaching at colleges like Wesleyan, Sarah Lawrence, and Yale. They would not be able to incur the additional time and expense required to become certified, even in the ARC program, and if required to do so (for part-time positions that offer no benefits), they would regretfully be forced to leave their jobs at ECA. Given that there would not be teachers available to hire who would be both certified and, simultaneously, practicing professional artists with college-teaching experience, as required to fulfill the mission of ECA, the end result of the Commissioner's proposal is that the school would close. My daughter told me just today she would be devastated if this happened. She and all the students I have met at ECA have a respect, love and passion for what happens everyday at ECA. It is a extraordinary experience that might never occur in their lives if not for the talent of the teachers/artists at ECA.

Please help to save this school by opposing this bill.

Thank you

Elizabeth S. Raccio
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West Haven, CT.